Safeguards suffocating citizens

Somebody tell the Telluride town elders to lighten up.

On the heels of their enactment of a gay-rights measure that could send wrongdoers to jail, the obsessively, socially conscientious community is now weighing an unprecedented smoking ban that would bar smoke even from the tourist town's bars. If the town council adopts the initiative, already passed by the "Telluride Environmental Commission" (in a town of only 1,300?), it would be the strictest anti-smoking ordinance in the country.

Whatever one thinks of smoking in pubic places — and we commend employers, shopkeepers, restaurateurs and others who voluntarily bar this unhealthy habit from their premises — isn't a smoking ban in saloons almost a contradiction in terms? Perhaps they don't anticipate it might discourage patrons altogether.

Yet as if to make their intent perfectly clear, the environmental commission noted it was closing a loophole in a 1987 smoking law that already had banned smoking from restaurants. It turned out that some eateries also had applied for bar licenses to accommodate smoking patrons. This measure would plug that hole.

As an ironic footnote to the proposal, the environmental commission's chairman touted the measure with the healthful premise that nonsmokers need — you guessed it — "special rights."

With so many protected classes around, perhaps this fretful bunch can next vote to furnish the ski town with a new sign to greet visitors: "Welcome to Telluride — the safest place in Colorado. Have fun."

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about disciplinary actions against a doctor when a written request is submitted.

The board, he added, receives

cians, two osteopaths and two members of the public.

"I don't see how the board can say it is unbiased," she said.

IG

te bill clears Senate: Employees to form union shops by a majority ill clearing the Senate on Friday.

n. Dave Wattenberg, R-Walden, state law from the 75 percent vote

's bill was approved by a 19-15 vote e House for hearings.

ating bail bond agents ad-

Senate on Friday gave initial ap-ll that would continue the practice ail bonding agents in Colorado. ation of bail bondsmen is scheduled 1.

lutzebaugh, R-Highlands Ranch, included in SB16 provisions that would allow cash bonding agents, who must post $50,000 cash bonds with the state, to write individual bonds up to $150,000 each.

There are two types of bail bonds in the state — surety bonds underwritten by insurance companies and bonds provided by the cash bonding agents. There are 11 cash bonding agents and 280 surety bonding agents in Colorado, Mutzebaugh said.

Mutzebaugh's bill also would prohibit bonding agents from soliciting business in a courtroom.

Gazette Telegraph news services

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